

Killer Christmas Toys

13 Dec 1984 Wave

By Dr. Kitt Ferguson

A sequel to Silent Night Deadly Night soon to be filmed right here in the Heber Valley? No, but this is a lot more real and much scarier. Children all over the country are injured or killed by toys given to them by loving parents. Just because a toy is on the market and says "3 and up" on the box does not mean it is safe. Buying safe toys takes thought!

Some toys aren't safe for any age group unless carefully supervised by a responsible adult. Toys that shoot small objects fit into this group. Many eyes are lost in this country every year to B-B guns, toy arrows, and little tanks with "real" rockets. Some toys look safe but have hidden hazards. Some dolls and stuffed animals are still put together with needle sharp pins. Little car axles and the chimes inside musical toys are sometimes dangerously sharp, too. That lovely real china tea set might be fine for a careful 8 year old but can cause a bad cut when a four year old breaks a piece.

Many toy hazards are related to the age of the child. With very young children (under 3) choking on small toys is a big problem. Such things as Lego blocks, Barbie doll shoes, and Teddy bear eyes are potential causes of

choking accidents. Toys with small parts should not be given to young children and should be kept out of their reach if given to older brothers or sisters. Toys should be checked for small parts that might be pulled loose. Don't be afraid to give those button eyes a good tug--your child will if you don't! Strings are a big hazard. Any kind of ribbon, scarf, or tie on a toy can possibly strangle a child if it is more than about a foot long and can be pulled loose. Take the ribbon off the toy cat before giving it to your two year old. While we are on the subject, don't ever tie a pacifier around a baby's neck or pin it to him with a string. I know of two babies who hanged themselves on pacifier ribbons! Crib gyms are fine until the baby starts pulling up, when they become as dangerous as a rattlesnake in the bed. Take them out when your baby is able to get up to sitting by himself.

Electrical toys and chemistry sets are obvious hazards in hands that are too young to understand the consequences. Baby walkers and trampolines have caused so many serious injuries that the Academy of Pediatrics has come out with strong recommendations against their use. Several toy boxes, beds and climbing toys have caused strangulation

deaths by trapping the baby's neck. They have been taken off the market but many are still around. Be sure toy box lids are very light and all furniture is designed without notches or nitches to trap a small neck.

Are you ready to cancel Christmas? Or perhaps give your children new underwear and socks instead of toys? Well, don't give up yet. There is a way you can pick safe toys. First and foremost look at your child. What is he doing? I try to teach parents to look at their children and see what they are doing developmentally. They can then predict the kinds of things that child might do that will get them hurt. You can do the same thing.

Watch your child at play. If he puts everything in his mouth then make sure the new toy won't go in. If he pulls up but can't get down don't give him a climbing toy just yet. If he is threatening to poison his sister I wouldn't buy a chemistry set either! Don't give into pressure from the child for a toy that isn't safe or age appropriate.

Children beg for toys because of advertising or because their friends all have one, then never play with it again. Finally, don't trust the age recommendations on the box. Many are just plain wrong but more importantly the age may not match your child developmentally. If you buy toys that are appropriate for your child you will not only have a safer year but your child will probably like the toys better! Have fun and shop carefully.

Dr. Ferguson is a Heber City pediatrician, a specialist in the care of children from birth to 18 years. If there is something you would like Dr. Ferguson to write about, address your question to Mountainland Medical Clinic, 30 South 500 East, Heber, Utah 84032.

KAMAS-WOODLAND TELEPHONE COMPANY

is now accepting bids to clean and maintain buildings and grounds on a contract basis in Kamas and Oakley. Must be at least 21 years of age and willing to provide references. Bids will be accepted until the 27th of December 1984, to go into effect the 1st of January 1985. For further information contact the telephone company at 783-4361 or stop by at 50 West 100 North Kamas.

We reserve the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

College Courses Start January 7th

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If you've been wanting to go to college classes but they were too far, too costly, or too inconvenient, now is the time to register in Utah Technical College's night classes. Registration will be on (Monday) January 7, starting at 6:00 p.m. and going to 7:30 in the Middle School's Little Theatre. Please call if you can not attend the registration but would like to take one of the classes. Classes must run 10 weeks in order to gain the necessary college credit.

Classes being taught this first term will be English 100 (3 cr. hrs.), English 101 (5 cr. hours.) Intermediate Algebra 102 (5 cr. hr.), College Algebra 105 (5 cr. hrs.) American Civilization 170 (5 cr. hrs.), and Word Processing in office education computer (4 or 5 cr. hrs.), a three hour class means it must meet three hours each week for ten weeks. A five

credit hour class must meet five hours each week for the ten weeks, which also might mean the class would meet on two days a week, two and one half hours each session. The algebra classes will be taught on Tuesday and Thursdays. The English classes will be on Wednesday, and the American Civilization class will be on Wednesday and Fridays. The word processing class will probably be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays. There may be a need to readjust the times and places, depending on when the majority of the participants can take the class.

We would like to offer a wider selection of classes, but we could only offer the classes in which fifteen people are registered. If

the valley doesn't support this experiment during this winter quarter, we may not have the opportunity to have the classes offered again.

The cost for the registration at UTC is \$10. for admission if you've never attended UTC before, and the tuition, which amounts to around \$25. per quarter hour. The tuition and fees may vary slightly depending upon the class you decide to take. If you're taking a three hour class it will probably cost \$70.00 for the tuition. If you're taking a five hour class, the tuition is \$106.00. If you wanted to sign up for three classes amounting to 12 to 18 credit hours the total tuition would remain around \$195.00.

This is considerably less expensive than at other institutions. Save gas, time and money while getting your college education in Heber Valley.

ALL WHO WISH TO ATTEND THIS QUARTER MUST COME JANUARY 7, TO REGISTRATION.

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